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IT'S STILL KINDA STRANGE!
I'M NOT USED TO RUBBIN' MY HAND OVER MY FACE-- AND FEELING REAL SKIN!
I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D BE SO GROOVY-LOOKING, BEN!
I JUST CAN'T WAIT UNTIL ALICIA REALIZES THAT YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL!
IMAGINE HOW THRILLED SHE'LL BE!
I CAN JUST PICTURE YOUR FIRST MEETING! EVEN WITHOUT HER EYESIGHT--A KISS IS STILL A KISS!
HEY!
I DON'T MIND MY GAL BEING FRIENDLY --BUT LET'S NOT OVERDO IT!
SO THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN MISSING ALL THIS TIME!
YOU LUCKY DOG!
JOHNNY! DON'T BE SO CHILDISH!
HOW CAN YOU BE JEALOUS OF YOUR OWN BEST FRIEND?
WHO'S JEALOUS? YOU CAN KISS ANYONE YOU WANT TO--
JUST SO LONG AS HIS INITIALS ARE JOHNNY STORM!
I CAN'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER--
I'VE GOT TO SEE ALICIA-- TELL HER WHAT'S HAPPENED!
NUTS! I WASN'T AS NERVOUS AS THIS THE TIME I FOUGHT THE HULK!
2

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

PETE DUNCAN—"DROPOUT"
"WHEN I TURNED 16, I WANTED TO REALLY START LIVING..."
FREE AT LAST! NO MORE SCHOOL FOR ME. MY NEW JOB PAYS $60 A WEEK. AND I'M BUYING A CAR WITH MY OWN MONEY!
HIGH SCHOOL
"A REAL BALL—FOR 6 MONTHS, THEN..."
BUSINESS IS BAD, PETE. WE'VE GOT TO LAY YOU OFF.
BUT HOW WILL I KEEP UP PAYMENTS ON MY CAR?
"I DRIFTED FROM JOB TO JOB, AND ALWAYS THE SAME STORY..."
I HATE TO LET A GOOD MAN GO, PETE. DO YOU KNOW ANY BUSINESS MATH?
WHAT CAN I SAY? I QUIT SCHOOL BEFORE WE STUDIED BUSINESS MATH!
"A YEAR AFTER QUITTING SCHOOL, I WAS OUT OF A JOB, FOR THE THIRD TIME."
PETE! YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB HERE, TOO?
BOB SHOLL! YEAH! I FIGURE I'VE GOT THE EXPERIENCE!
EMPLOY OFFICE
"BUT BOB'S DIPLOMA HELPED HIM CINCH THE JOB I WANTED."
MY OLD CLASSMATES NOT ONLY GET THE BETTER JOBS, THEY'RE PAID MORE MONEY TO START.
"I FINALLY GOT A JOB. $60 A WEEK. BUT I HAD TO SELL MY CAR!"
I QUIT SCHOOL TO MAKE $60 A WEEK! I HAVEN'T HAD A RAISE IN TWO YEARS!
"THEN, AT LAST, MY LUCK SEEMED TO TURN..."
HELEN, YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME IN YEARS!
"HELEN AND I WERE MARRIED. A YEAR LATER, OUR FIRST CHILD WAS BORN. WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER UNTIL, ONE DAY AT THE PLANT..."
HEARD THE NEWS, PETE? THEY'RE GOING TO START LAYING OFF MEN NEXT WEEK!
"WITH A WIFE AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER, I COULD NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE LAID OFF..."
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, PETE?
CLIPPING AN I.C.S. COUPON, HELEN. I CAN EARN MY I.C.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN MY SPARE TIME!
"AT LAST! THE BIG DAY..."
MY I.C.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA! GOOD-BYE LAYOFFS! NOBODY CAN STOP ME NOW!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, PETE!
International Correspondence Schools
DIPLOMA
"WHAT A DIFFERENCE THAT I.C.S. DIPLOMA MADE AT MY NEXT JOB INTERVIEW..."
THE JOB'S YOURS, PETE, STARTING AT $105 A WEEK...AND IT'S A JOB WITH A FUTURE!
GREAT! WAIT'LL I TELL HELEN!
MY NEXT STEP IS TO TAKE SOME I.C.S. COLLEGE-LEVEL ENGINEERING COURSES—THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!
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JOHNNY, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE CHANGED TO YOUR REGULAR STREET CLOTHES?
TO A SWINGIN' SUPERHERO, THESE THREADS ARE REGULAR STREET CLOTHES!
RIGHT, O'HOOLEY?
AH, BE OFF WITH YA, LADDIE!
'TISN'T THE CLOTHES THAT MAKE THE MAN--AND WELL YE KNOW IT!
ANYWAY, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO DO THIS WHILE WEARING MY NEWEST NEHRU THREADS, WOULDJA?
OTHER BOYS CALL THEIR DATES A TAXI!
OKAY, SO YOU'RE A TAXI!
I HAD TO FALL FOR A COMEDIAN!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE IMPOSING ENTRANCE TO THE WORLD-FAMED BAXTER BUILDING, WE FIND--
HOW ABOUT A TAXI, O'HOOLIHAN?
YES, SIR!
NOW WHO'D BE KNOWIN' ME NAME?
--AND ME NOT RECOGNIZIN' HIS VOICE!
'TIS MESELF THAT'S NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!
BUT THE ADDRESS HE TOLD THE DRIVER--'TIS WHERE THE BLIND ALICIA MASTERS LIVES--HER WHO'S THE APPLE OF THE THING'S OWN BLUE EYES!
AHH, THE POOR, DARLIN' TRAGIC THING!
IF HE COULD ONLY BE HUMAN, WHAT A FOINE BROTH OF A BHOY HE'D BE!

I'M AS JITTERY AS A KID ON HIS FIRST DATE!
WHAT IF SHE FINDS PLAIN BEN GRIMM TOO DIFFERENT--TOO DULL?
WHAT IF I'VE CHANGED TOO MUCH? SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE LOVED ME AS THE THING--
I'M SO SHOOK-UP, I EVEN BROUGHT THE WONDER GLOVES WITH ME THAT WE GOT FROM THE WIZARD WHEN HE TRIED TO CLOBBER US!*
*IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER, SHAME ON YOU! IT ONLY HAPPENED LAST ISH! --STERN STAN.
AND WHAT ABOUT ME? WILL I STILL FEEL THE SAME?
IS BEN GRIMM GONNA LOVE THE SAME GIRL--FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT HER--AS HE DID WHEN HE WAS THE THING?
SO DEEPLY WRAPPED IN THOUGHT IS THE TROUBLED MR. GRIMM, THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE THE SOMEWHAT FLAMBOYANT, FIRE-ENGINE-RED SPORTS CAR THAT GLIDES RIGHT PAST HIS OWN HIRED CAB--
JOHNNY, AFTER ALL THE FANTASTI-CARS, AND SPACE SHIPS, AND POGO PLANES YOU'VE RIDDEN--HOW CAN A NORMAL TWO-SEATER STILL THRILL YOU?
HONEY, THAT'S LIKE SAYING AFTER ALL THE GIRLS I'VE KISSED, HOW CAN LITTLE CRYSTAL--?
STOP RIGHT THERE! I'M SORRY I ASKED!
HAH! NOW WHO'S JEALOUS?
OKAY... JOLLY JACK WAS JUST BUSTIN' TO DRAW A NEW CORVETTE--BUT NOW THAT HE GOT IT OUT OF HIS SYSTEM, ONWARD--
THERE SHE IS--WAITING FOR ME NOW!
THE NEXT FEW MINUTES WILL TELL THE TALE!
TAXI
EAGLE CAB CO.
I--HAD ALMOST FORGOTTON--HOW FRAGILE--HOW BEAUTIFUL--SHE IS!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

INTELSAT III SATELLITE
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CHEERIOS KID
This is the Cheerios Kid. He gets *his* energy from Cheerios! Like you he needs go-power every day. And a breakfast of Cheerios with milk is packed with muscle-building protein and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go. Get Cheerios!

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OR CASH!
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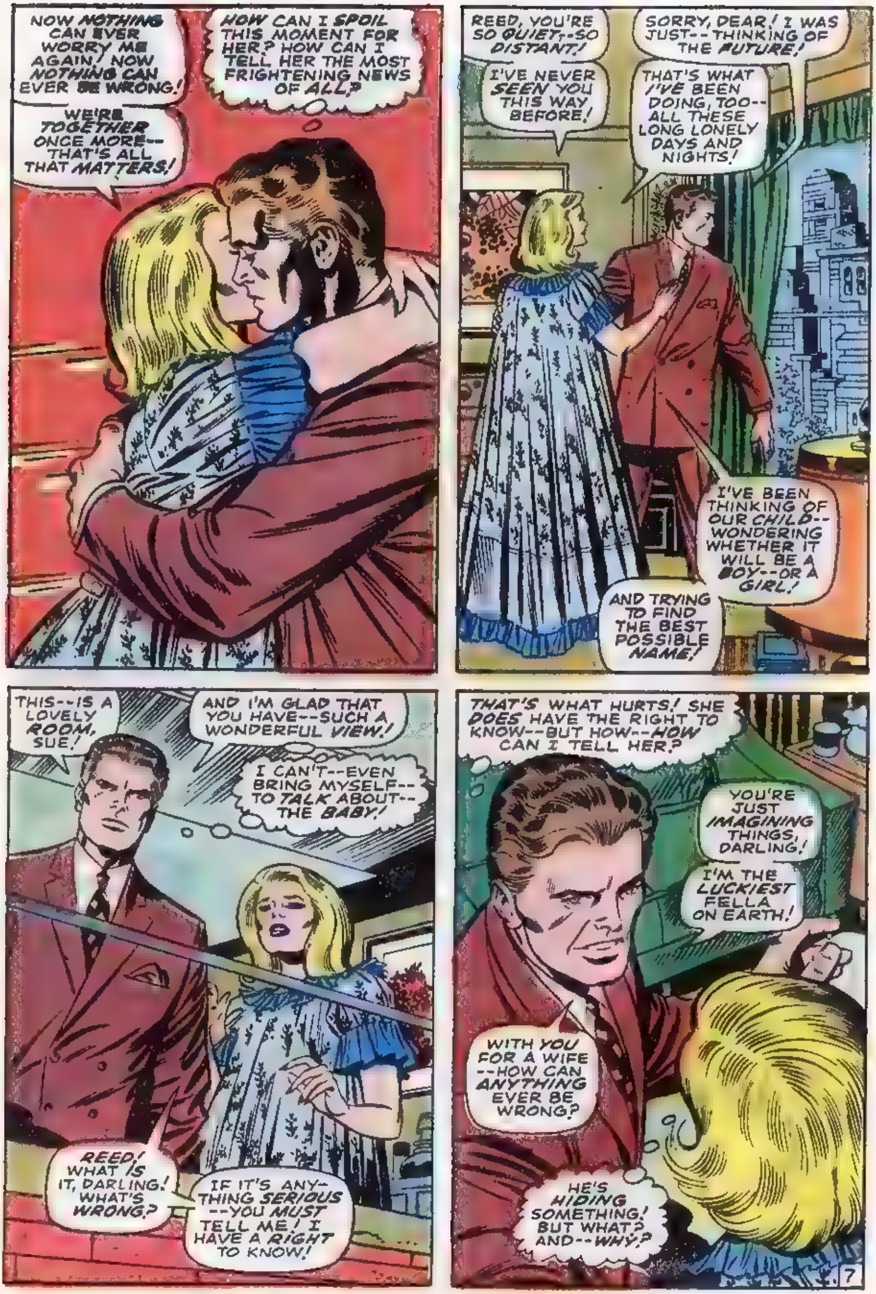
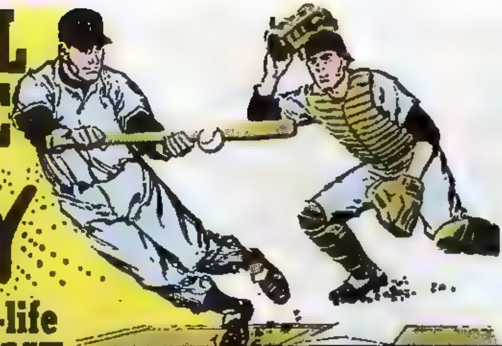


NOW NOTHING CAN EVER WORRY ME AGAIN! NOW NOTHING CAN EVER BE WRONG!
HOW CAN I SPOIL THIS MOMENT FOR HER? HOW CAN I TELL HER THE MOST FRIGHTENING NEWS OF ALL?
WE'RE TOGETHER ONCE MORE-- THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!
REED, YOU'RE SO QUIET,--SO DISTANT!
SORRY, DEAR! I WAS JUST-- THINKING OF THE FUTURE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU THIS WAY BEFORE!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING, TOO-- ALL THESE LONG LONELY DAYS AND NIGHTS!
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF OUR CHILD-- WONDERING WHETHER IT WILL BE A BOY--OR A GIRL!
AND TRYING TO FIND THE BEST POSSIBLE NAME!
THIS--IS A LOVELY ROOM, SUE!
AND I'M GLAD THAT YOU HAVE--SUCH A WONDERFUL VIEW!
I CAN'T--EVEN BRING MYSELF-- TO TALK ABOUT-- THE BABY!
REED! WHAT IS IT, DARLING! WHAT'S WRONG?
IF IT'S ANYTHING SERIOUS --YOU MUST TELL ME! I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!
THAT'S WHAT HURTS! SHE DOES HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW--BUT HOW--HOW CAN I TELL HER?
YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, DARLING!
I'M THE LUCKIEST FELLA ON EARTH!
WITH YOU FOR A WIFE --HOW CAN ANYTHING EVER BE WRONG?
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING! BUT WHAT? AND--WHY?
7

SPECIAL NOTE: WE'VE INCLUDED THIS PAGE IN ANSWER TO MORE REQUESTS THAN WE CAN POSSIBLY COUNT--AS IF YOU COULDN'T GUESS! --STAN AND JACK.
NO MATTER WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE--I'LL LOVE HER TILL THE END OF MY DAYS! NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE THAT!
ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED IN OUR LIVES BEFORE--IS JUST A PROLOGUE--TO THE UNKNOWN FUTURE THAT LIES AHEAD!
BUT, SO LONG AS I CAN SHARE THAT FUTURE WITH THE MAN OF MY HEART--WITH MY BELOVED REED--I'LL NEVER BE FRIGHTENED OF ANYTHING--EVER AGAIN!
8

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BASEBALL FANS ARE CRAZY about this true-to-life BASEBALL GAME



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Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week, from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. *—P. C., Attleboro, Mass.*

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play. *—G. V., Cincinnati, O.*

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games. *—F. T., Manila, P.I.*

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. *—A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.*

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life. *—C. H., Lanett, Ala.*

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play. *—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.*

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer. *—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.*

Boys are waiting in line to play the game! *—A. H., Chicago, Ill.*

It has given me more pleasure than any other game. *—S. E., Rossville, Ind.*

The most exciting and fun game ever. *—L.S., Boston, Mass.*

It is so stupendous, words can't explain. *—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Best on the market. *—J. E., Miami, Fla.*

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. *—S. C., Temple City, Calif.*

STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., Inc., Box 541, Great Neck, N. Y. 11020

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Address ____________________

City ____________ State ________ Zip ______

HOLD YOUR FIRE! DON'T SHOOT--TILL WE LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM!
I HAVE BEEN WAITING--AS ORDERED! BUT NOW--MY TIME IS COME! NOW, I MUST WAIT--NO LONGER!
THE TIME IS COME--TO DO THAT WHICH I WAS CREATED TO DO!
STAY OUT OF HIS WAY! HE'S A WALKIN' POWERHOUSE!
SOMEONE CALL THE PRECINCT--ALERT THE FF!
MOVE IT, YOU GUYS!
HE'S TOO STRONG--TOO DANGEROUS! WE CAN'T STOP HIM!
OPEN FIRE!
IT'S NO USE! OUR SHELLS JUST BOUNCE OFF HIM!
LOOK! HE'S MOVING FASTER--PICKING UP SPEED!
THE ONE--WHO GAVE ME LIFE--PROGRAMMED ME TO RESPOND--TO A GUIDING SIGNAL!
SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY--THERE IS SUCH A SIGNAL! I MUST FIND IT!
10

BUT, WHERE IS IT? WHERE CAN I FIND IT?
OUT OF MY WAY! STAND ASIDE! NOTHING MUST STOP ME!
I MUST FIND THE GUIDING SIGNAL!
AND, WHEN IT IS FOUND--
I MUST DESTROY THE ONE WHO POSSESSES IT!
SUCH WAS THE FINAL COMMAND OF THE THINKER--
AND I ONLY LIVE TO SERVE--TO SERVE THE THINKER--WHO GAVE ME LIFE!
SECONDS LATER, NOT REALIZING THAT HIS MASTER IS NOW IN PRISON--NOT REALIZING THAT THE THINKER'S ORDERS HAVE BECOME MEANINGLESS--THE ANDROID MAN SUCCUMBS TO A SAVAGE PAROXYSM OF BESTIAL RAGE--!
THERE IS NO SIGNAL!
BUT THERE MUST BE A SIGNAL!
WITHOUT IT, MY MISSION CANNOT BE FULFILLED!
BUT THEN, SUDDENLY--
I SENSE IT AT LAST!
THE THINKER HAS NOT FAILED HIS GREATEST CREATION!
11

AND, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT THE ANDROID MAN HAS TO DO WITH THIS LITTLE SCENE--HANG LOOSE, HERO--WATCH HOW WE WRAP IT UP--!
I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU, BEN!
I ALWAYS FELT THAT REED RICHARDS WOULD FIND A CURE FOR YOU SOME DAY!
I WAS BEGINNIN' TO FIGURE HE'D KEEP BOMBING OUT!
HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO US, BABY? WE'RE MAKIN' WITH THE SMALL TALK LIKE A COUPLE'A STRANGERS!
I DON'T KNOW, BEN! SOMEHOW --EVERYTHING SEEMS DIFFERENT NOW!
BUT, I'M STILL THE SAME GUY, HONEY!--EVEN THOUGH I LOOK DIFFERENT!
LET ME FEEL YOUR FACE, BEN!
YOUR FEATURES HAVE A RUGGED HANDSOMENESS!
BUT I DON'T GRAB YA-- LIKE THE THING DID! I CAN TELL BY YOUR TOUCH!
BEN, WHAT IS THAT SOFT BUZZING SOUND I HEAR?
HUH? OH, IT MUST BE COMIN' FROM THIS BOX I BROUGHT WITH ME!
IT CONTAINS A PAIR OF GIMMICKY GLOVES THAT THE WIZARD TRIED TO ATTACK US WITH!
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY! THE BLAMED THINGS SOUND LIKE THEY'RE ALIVE!
MUST HAVE SOME KINDA ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS IN 'EM!
12

HOLY COW!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES IS THIS?!!
I HAVE FOUND THE SIGNAL!
IT IS YOU WHO POSSESS IT!
AND SO-- IT IS YOU WHO MUST-- DIE!
UHHH--!
NOBODY CAN PUNCH LIKE THAT!
NOBODY HUMAN, THAT IS!
BUT--ALICIA! WHERE IS ALICIA?
SHE CAN'T SEE! SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING!
SHE PICKED UP THE BOX-- WITH THE GLOVES IN IT!
NOW HE'S TURNING AWAY FROM ME! HE'S HEADING TOWARDS--HER!
IT'S THE BOX HE'S AFTER--IT MUST BE!
ALICIA-- PUT IT DOWN, HONEY! DROP IT!
BEN! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT'S WRONG?
I--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND-- ALL THIS NOISE AND CONFUSION!
IF-- ONLY I COULD-- SEE!
13

THE GUIDING SIGNAL HAS LED ME TO YOU!
ALICIA! DON'T WORRY--I'LL HANDLE 'IM, BABY --NO MATTER WHAT!
NO!! DON'T! LET ME GO--!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE-- OR HOW STRONG YA ARE!
I NEVER MET ANYTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE --AND THAT GOES FOR YOU, CREEP-- IN SPADES!
YOUR BLOWS ARE LIKE-- THE PATHETIC THRASHING OF--A FLEA!
I AINT GOT THE THING'S STRENGTH ANY MORE--
BUT I STILL GOT THE KNOW-HOW FROM A THOUSAND BATTLES--!
I'LL STILL FIND A WAY TO TAKE 'IM BY SURPRISE--
LIKE BUTTIN' HIM HARD ENOUGH TO GET 'IM OFF-BALANCE!
NOW--WHILE HE'S STAGGERING BACK--IF I CAN JUST NAIL 'IM WITH A SOLID ONE-TWO--!
THERE! IF THAT DON'T ROCK 'IM--!
14

IT'S--NO USE! HE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT!
HE'S RIPPIN' THAT POST FROM UNDER THE CEILING--LIKE IT'S AN OVERGROWN TOOTHPICK!
DON'T YOU REALIZE I CANNOT BE STOPPED!
CAN'T YOU SEE THE THINKER HAS MADE ME--INVINCIBLE!
THE THINKER! BUT--HE'S IN JAIL! WHAT CAN--HEY!!
THE WAY HE RAMMED THAT POST THRU THE WALL--HOW STRONG IS HE?
WE-WE'RE SAVED! HERE COME THE POLICE!
OKAY, BIG MAN! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
IT'S ONLY ONE GUY--!
HOW DID HE CAUSE ALL THIS DAMAGE?
WATCH! I AM ABOUT TO SHOW YOU--!
HAH! THAT WILL PIN THEM THERE!
BY THE TIME THEY REACH ME--MY TASK WILL BE DONE!
15

Fellows! HERE'S A SWELL WAY TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY and WIN PRIZES TOO!

30,000 Boys 12 or older **Sell GRIT** *"America's Greatest Family Newspaper"* MANY MAKE **$1 to $5 Weekly**

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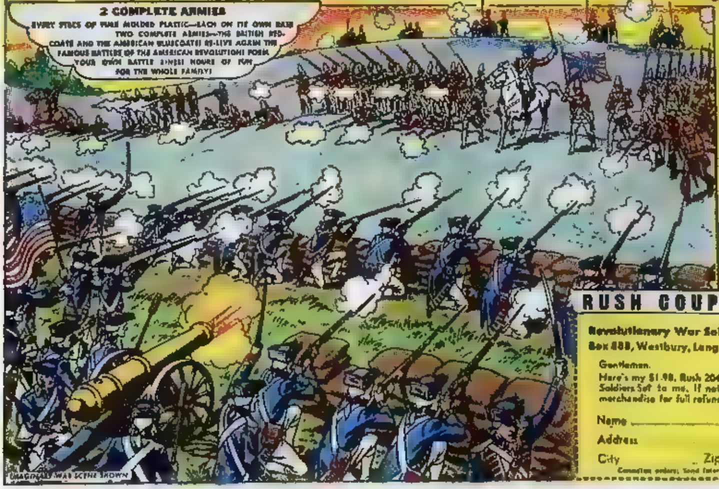

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NOW, I MUST RETURN TO THE FEMALE, AND CONCLUDE MY MISSION!
OVER MY DEAD BODY YA WILL, MISTER!
NO MATTER HOW STRONG HE IS--I GOTTA KEEP 'IM FROM ALICIA!
WHAT? THE LITTLE HUMAN GNAT DARES TO AGAIN ATTACK ME?!!
WHY DO YOU FORCE ME TO BATTER YOU REPEATEDLY?
I AM NOT CONCERNED WITH YOU--ONLY WITH THE GIRL!
--THOUGH I DO NOT KNOW WHY THE THINKER WOULD WASTE MY POWER ON SO HELPLESS A BEING!
JUST AS I DO NOT KNOW WHY ONE HUMAN WILL SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR ANOTHER!
TO ME, ALL IS MADNESS!
I HAVE MY COMMAND--AND I OBEY!
FOR ME--THAT IS ENOUGH!
I DO NOT QUESTION! I DO NOT FEEL! I LEAVE THAT FOR LESSER BEINGS--FOR HUMANS!

CAN'T--TAKE MUCH MORE! --HAVEN'T A CHANCE--!
BEN! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAS HE DONE TO YOU??
DON'T WORRY, BABY--I'LL MAKE IT!
I GOTTA MAKE IT--FOR YOUR SAKE!
BUT--BEN GRIMM AIN'T GOT A PRAYER!
ONLY THE THING--CAN TAKE 'IM!
EVEN IF IT MEANS --I'LL NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN--LIKE REED SAID--I GOTTA DO IT! --FOR ALICIA!
SHE--FAINTED! BUT MAYBE--IT'S BETTER THAT WAY--IN CASE--I DON'T MAKE IT!
THE WONDER GLOVES! THEY'RE--WHAT I NEED--!
IT TOOK--A SUDDEN, GIANT SURGE OF ENERGY--TO TURN ME BACK TO--BEN GRIMM!
THE ONLY WAY--TO REVERSE THE PROCESS--HAS GOTTA BE--ANOTHER SUCH SHOCK!
I JUST HAVETA HOPE--THESE WONDER GLOVES--HAVE ENOUGH POWER--TO DO THE TRICK!
HE'S HEADIN' TOWARDS ME! I WON'T GET--A SECOND CHANCE--!
NOW--IF IT WORKS--IT'S GOODBYE TO BEN GRIMM--FOREVER!
AND IT'S GOTTA WORK--FOR ALICIA!
I DID IT! I'M THE THING AGAIN!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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JUST tell me, in coupon below, the kind of body you want—and I'll give it to you SO FAST your friends will be amazed! "Dynamic-Tension," my easy 15-minutes-a-day method will make your chest and shoulders bulge . . . arms and legs surge with power . . . your whole body feel "alive"!

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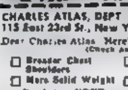

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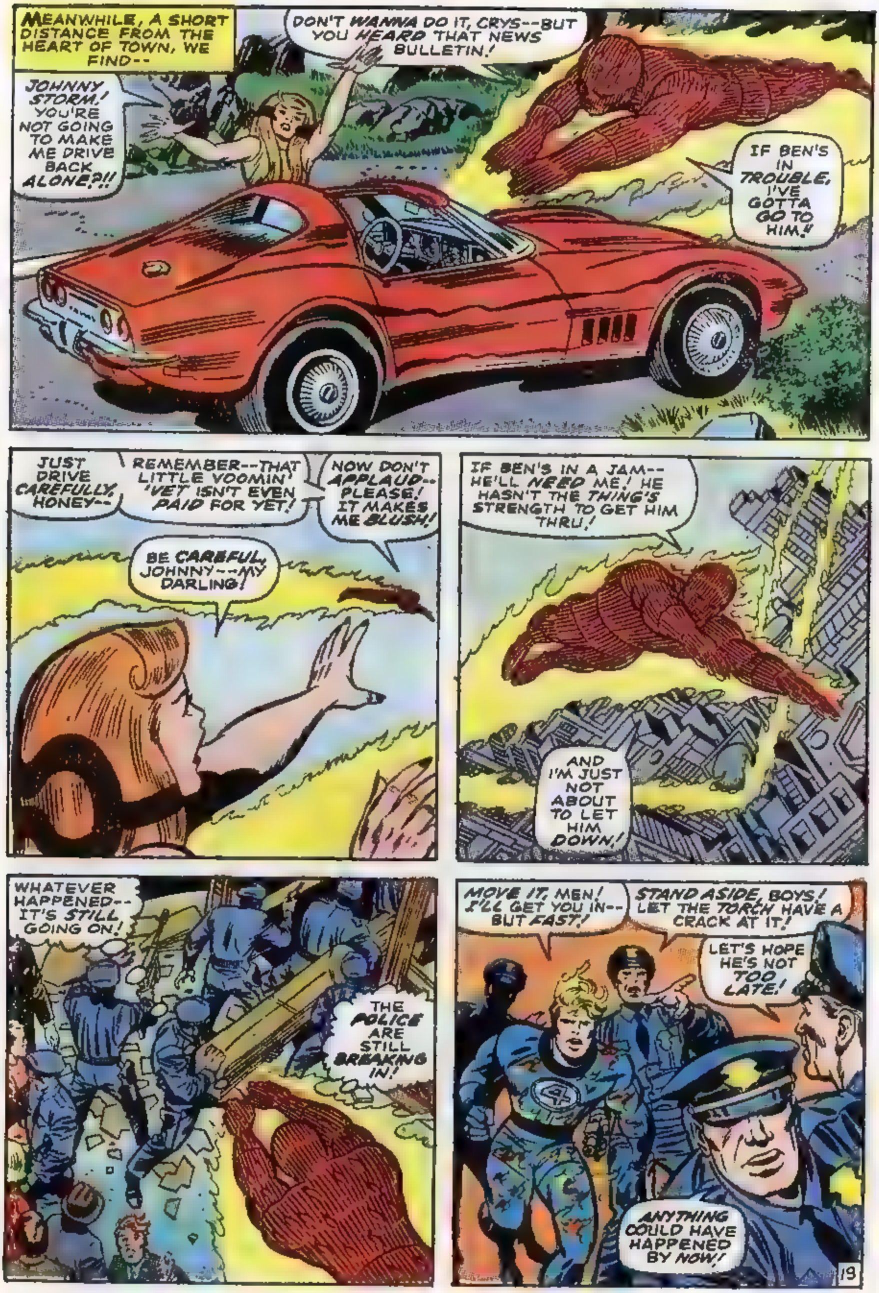

MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE HEART OF TOWN, WE FIND--
JOHNNY STORM! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE ME DRIVE BACK ALONE?!!
DON'T WANNA DO IT, CRYS--BUT YOU HEARD THAT NEWS BULLETIN!
IF BEN'S IN TROUBLE, I'VE GOTTA GO TO HIM!!
JUST DRIVE CAREFULLY, HONEY--
REMEMBER--THAT LITTLE VOOMIN' 'VET' ISN'T EVEN PAID FOR YET!
NOW DON'T APPLAUD-- PLEASE! IT MAKES ME BLUSH!
BE CAREFUL, JOHNNY--MY DARLING!
IF BEN'S IN A JAM--HE'LL NEED ME! HE HASN'T THE THING'S STRENGTH TO GET HIM THRU!
AND I'M JUST NOT ABOUT TO LET HIM DOWN!
WHATEVER HAPPENED--IT'S STILL GOING ON!
THE POLICE ARE STILL BREAKING IN!
MOVE IT, MEN! I'LL GET YOU IN--BUT FAST!
STAND ASIDE, BOYS! LET THE TORCH HAVE A CRACK AT IT!
LET'S HOPE HE'S NOT TOO LATE!
ANYTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED BY NOW!
19

HOW--CAN YOU GENERATE SO MUCH HEAT--SO FAST??
BETTER SHIELD YOUR EYES, SARGE--!
I'M GONNA INCREASE THE INTENSITY--TILL I REACH BEN!
FINALLY--
BEN! ALICIA! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BUT--YOU'RE THE THING AGAIN!
HI, JUNIOR!
ALL SET FER THE MARSH-MALLOW ROAST?
HE SAVED US ALL, JOHNNY!
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE UP AGAINST!
LOOKS LIKE A SUPER-POWERFUL ANDROID!
BUT NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH--FOR THE THING!
HE MUSTA BEEN THE LAST LITTLE PLAY-MATE THE THINKER DREAMED UP BEFORE THEY SLAPPED 'IM IN THE COOLER!
HE GOT OUTTA CONTROL SOMEHOW--BUT HE AINT GONNA BOTHER NO ONE AGAIN! THAT'S FER SURE!
BEN! I JUST REMEMBERED--WHAT REED SAID--!
Y'MEAN--ABOUT ME CHANGIN' AGAIN?
HE SAID--IF YOU EVER CHANGE BACK TO THE THING--YOU'LL REMAIN THAT WAY--ALWAYS!
OH NO, JOHNNY--NO!
DON'T LET IT BUG YA, BABY!
IT'S--JUST THE WAY--I PLANNED IT--!
BEN!
WHY SHOULD I BE A NOWHERE NOBODY--LIKE PLAIN BEN GRIMM--?
--WHEN I CAN BE--THE THING--
--FOREVER...!

ITEMS OF INCREDIBLE IMPORT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR INTEREST, INVIGORATE YOUR IMAGINATION, AND INTOXICATE YOUR ID!

ITEM! Hey, didja see the great plug we got in a recent ish of TV GUIDE? If not, don't despair! It went like this: "Marvel has become champ of the comic-book game — 50,000,000 books a year, with a high number of them selling to college kids." — There was lots more, but you might think we're bragging! So, we'll just end with a tintinnabulatin' "Thanx" to the guys 'n gals at the Guide . . . 'cause you know how modest we are!

ITEM! Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the tremendous new team of Genial GENE COLAN and Tender TOM PALMER as they join forces to illustrate DR. STRANGE. If ever a penciller and inker were born for each other—! They're dynamite! And the same goes for Gentle JOHNNY CRAIG whom in a moment of sheer inspiration we've assigned to ink the power-packed penciling of Lonesome GEORGE TUSKA on IRON MAN! And, when DR. DOOM finally stars in his own strip, wait'll you see who the artists are! Yep, the ol' Bullpen's always been crawling with talent, but right about now we're threatening to burst at the seams! So, just keep watching, wondrous one!

ITEM! When we get a letter like this, we can't just toss it away. So, here's where we share it with you — "Dear Stan: Any Marvel maniacs who'd like to write a G.I. over here can address ANY LONELY SOLDIER c/o USO, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96241. — Sincerely, Sgt. Mike Steiner ([illegible])." 'Nuff said!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering, ol' SPIDEY and the ever-lovin' FANTASTIC FOUR are still causing a riot among the ratings on nationwide TV — to say nothing of SUBBY, THOR, GREEN SKIN, CAP, and SHELL-HEAD! And, if the flood of toys and games produced for us by LOUIS MARX, OHIO ART, WESTERN PUBLISHING, and KENNER TOYS, just to name a few, doesn't send our younger Believers into orbit, we'll never visit Yancy Street again! — And by the way just a reminder to check our merchandising page for those fabulous far out plastic pillows of Thor and Spidey — and to latch onto the latest, greatest ish of Marvel's glitzy gag mag GROOVY #3!

ITEM! Wanna know the name of our newest writer? He's none other than Artful ARNOLD DRAKE the loveable king-size leprechaun who combines his own unique dramatic quality with a fabulous flair for biting satire and crafty characterization! Arnie is certain to make his mark in the hallowed halls of Marvel — if we can keep him away from those endless movies he so dearly loves to write! Welcome aboard, A. D. — it figures to be a rollickin' ride all the way!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SGT. FURY SPECIAL #4: Still on sale . . . if your luck's holding out! To convince you that this one'll be a war-mag classic, we need only tell that the subject is . . . The Battle of the Bulge! 'Nuff said!

SILVER SURFER #2: Marvel's newest and most daringly dramatic superhero returns to thrill you again as he battles the startling occupants of a fearsome flying saucer.

SPIDER-MAN #66: A totally different type of Spidey adventure, as the world's favorite webhead must protect his secret identity — while becoming embroiled in a deadly jailbreak!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This month we're gonna yak about something that has nothing to do with our mags! Over the years we've received a zillion letters asking for the Bullpen's opinion about such diverse subjects as Viet Nam, civil rights, the war on poverty and the upcoming election. We're fantasmagorically flattered that our opinion would matter to you, but here's the hang-up: there ISN'T any unanimous Bullpen opinion about anything, except possibly mother love and apple pie! Take the election, for example. Some of us are staunch Democrats, and others dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. As for Yours Truly and a few others, we prefer to judge the person, rather than the party line. That's why we seek to avoid editorializing about controversial issues — not because we haven't our opinions, but rather because we share the same diversity of opinion as Americans everywhere. But, we'd like to go on record about one vital issue — we believe that Man has a divine destiny and an awesome responsibility — the responsibility of treating all who share this wondrous world of ours with tolerance and respect — judging each fellow human on his own merit, regardless of race, creed or color. That we agree on — and we'll never rest until it becomes a fact, rather than just a cherished dream!

Excelsior,
Smiley

AVENGERS #58: He's back — at last. Cap temporarily rejoins the Avengers to journey back into time and learn the true fate of Bucky Barnes! This one's a shocker!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: In answer to an awesome avalanche of requests! The new Avengers battle to the death with the original Avengers . . . in a world they never made! An all-new, once-a-year wonder!

X-MEN #47: The beginning of new lives for Cyclops and Marvel Girl — and a senses-shattering new villain called . . . Computo! It's a double-dose of mutant magic as only Marvel can sock it to you!

DAREDEVIL #44: There are many things we could tell you about this sensational ish to send you into orbit! But, the thrilling theme alone should do the trick — DD's wanted for murder!

MIGHTY THOR #156: Ragnarok — the destruction of the entire universe — is getting closer by the second — and even the Thunder God seems powerless to halt it! This one's a classic in our own time!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #106: An epic so different, we hardly know how to describe it! It involves a new variety of villains — a new, surprising locale, and a new type of action! Not for the timid!

INCREDIBLE HULK #108: If you think ol' Green Skin is in a jam just 'cause Col. Yuri Brevlov's hot on his trail . . . just wait'll the malevolent Mandarin explodes upon the scene! It's dynamite!

HULK SPECIAL #1: To celebrate his first sizzlin' special, who could possibly battle our ol' juggernaut to a standstill — or worse? How about the ever-new, ever-surprising . . . Inhumans!

IRON MAN #6: Talk about cataclysmic comebacks . . . wait'll you see the rip-roarin' return of the Crusher . . . and what it does to Shell-Head! We guarantee it'll blow your mind!

SUB-MARINER #6: Namor slugs it out with the titanic Tiger Shark for the throne of Atlantis — while Destiny waits in the wings! After this, skin-diving may never be the same!

NOT BRAND ECHH #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it. It's got more pages, laughs, and lunacy than ever before.

CAPTAIN MARVEL #6: How can you stop a brain-blasting baddie who possesses all the limitless power of the sun itself? You'll never forget Mar-Vell's astonishing answer!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #5: Our dauntless director of SHIELD nonchalantly wonders . . . "What Ever Happened To Scorpio?" — only to wish he'd never found out! Steranko strikes again!

DR. STRANGE #173: This is it! The event you thought would never take place! The dreaded Dormammu finally invades earth, and when Doc Strange tries to stop him — watch out!

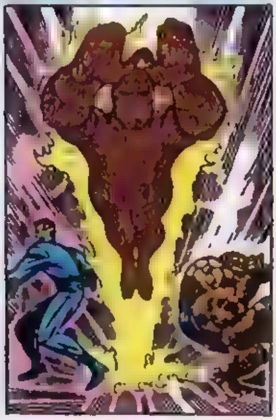
SGT. FURY #60: You won't believe your baby-blues . . . and neither will the Howlers when they're confronted by Hitler's Agent of 1,000 Faces! It's blood-and-guts battle action all the way!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #6: Only a desperate effort by the Leatherneck Raiders can save Australia from a daring Japanese take-over plot! You dare not miss: "Mission: Destroy The Invisible Enemy!"

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #17: The F.F., Iron Man, and Doc Strange — all in one incredible ish that will leave you begging for more! Further proof that Marvel had a better idea first!

MARVEL TALES #16: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man — and the sinister Serpent! (Against Spidey, Thor, the torrid Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch!) A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since Forbush asked for a raise!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: It's true! Just to show that nobody can take mixed-up Marvel for granted, we're sockin' you with a giant-sized Thor-Asgard surprise Special, recreating the greatness and glory of the Thunder God's early days! Face it — it's a must!



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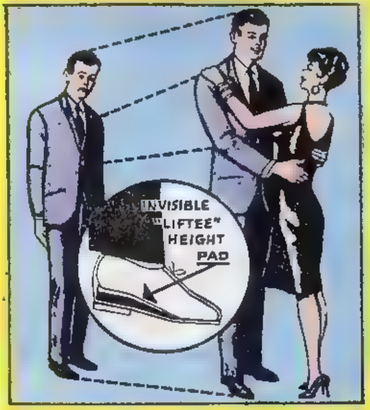

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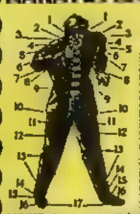

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Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N.Y.

Dear Stan,

I am a fairly recent, yet avid, fan of your comics. Your characters are so lifelike that I feel a deep kinship to them and their problems. However, the one character whose problems really affect me, and probably countless thousands of your readers, is the powerful, grotesque Thing. Although you would have a hard time convincing people like Doctor Doom, Diablo, and the Yancy Street Gang, Ben Grimm is perhaps one of the most tragic characters in comics, indeed, in all literature. He possesses power beyond measure, yet he must bear the cross of his maladjusted features. For him to look human, he must sacrifice his strength, and visa versa, but it is a sacrifice he is quite willing to make. The real tragedy, though, is that as the Thing he has the mind and feelings of Ben Grimm. Unlike your other radiation-changed powerhouse, the Hulk, who doesn't want nor care to become normal, the Thing completely realizes what he is. Unlike the Hulk, Ben Grimm is painfully aware of looks he receives when he appears in public. These looks must hurt him more than all the injuries he has incurred from battling alongside his teammates against their foes. I feel it is time productive measures were taken to ease his plight. Reed Richards, for all his tremendous scientific ability, cannot aid his old friend alone. I propose that there is only one man who can team with Reed to achieve results, a man who is at least Richards' equal in mental capability. This man is a world famous expert in the field of bio-chemistry. His knowledge of the body's chemistry coupled with Mr. Fantastic's knowledge of radiation could create a way to help Ben. The man of whom I speak is Henry Pym, the Avenger. I believe a Pym-Richards team could discover a way for Grimm to attain a normal appearance, yet enable him to revert to his role of the Thing at will. I feel that there is no need for a sacrifice of strength or looks. I am sure they can do it. For the sake of Ben Grimm, I hope they try and succeed. Thank you for listening to me.

Bernard Cicirello, 4017 N. Pontiac
Chicago, Illinois 60634

Anytime, pal . . . that's what we're here for! And, who knows, one of these days, we've just liable to team up Goliath and rollickin' Reed for that very purpose. (In fact, we'd like to see bashful Bruce Banner drop by to give 'em a hand, except that it might turn out to be a green one!) For the present, though, it looks as if Benjie is stuck with his orange-marmalade look . . . and, frankly, we figure that about a zillion Marvelites wouldn't have it any other way!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Although I am in that age group (37) which is not normally associated with reading comic books, I have read some editions of your F.-F. magazine. I am presently following Galactus' latest foray against the planet Earth in search of the Silver Surfer, which I find to be highly interesting. While I do not know what your plans are for the conclusion of this tale, I do have a suggestion. Galactus should be irrevocably destroyed. Any parasitic monster that must exist at the expense of destroying entire planets deserves no better fate. The fact that he is permitted to moralize that he had no intention of destroying this planet does not excuse his wanton destruction of other worlds. No single life, no matter the power or longevity of that entity, is worth the existence of millions, billions, trillions or even a single other creature, just to insure its own existence. Therefore I say the F. F. must destroy Galactus.

S. L. Cox, Wheli US AB, Libya

We're with you, S.L.-but *destroying* our cosmos-champin' kook isn't exactly the same as swatting a fly, y'know! Would you maybe settle for just stubbin' his toe — or maybe giving him water-on-the-knee?

Dear Stan and Jack,

The 76th issue of FANTASTIC FOUR was characteristically excellent in both plot and illustration, but there's one point in the dialogue which, I believe, needs further explanation. On the last and first panels of pages four and five respectively, Reed tells Johnny that he had intended to enter the sub-atomic universe to locate Psycho-Man (and apparently destroy him—well, he wasn't going to invite him to a party!) so he could "breathe easy." This isn't like the Reed I used to know, wanting to hunt down and savagely murder a living being, though evil, against whom he had never battled in person. And it isn't like you, Stan, either. You've always made your readers aware of the fact that we must cherish life, and here your most mature and thinking hero lets his animal instincts take control, in effect saying that "two wrongs *do* make a right." Perhaps I've misinterpreted your entire statement, but if such is the case, others may have made the same error. This is one time that complete clarification is a necessity.

Franklin Ray, 317 Cumberland Street, Apt. 5
Cornwall, Ontario, Canada

Apparently so, Frank . . . so here's the agonizin' amplification for which your letter cries. Reed never intended truly to *destroy* Psycho-Man, merely to see to it that he was rendered powerless to menace mankind anew. Smilin' Stan figured that, by now, Marveldom Assembled knew enough about the personality of the rubberized Mr. Richards to be certain that he would never willfully take the life of another human being — *whatever* the reason! But, looks like we goofed again! (Y'know, sometimes, in the dismal dead of night, after a bone-crushing day spent poring over a hot superhero comic, we kinda long for the good ol' days when our cast of characters included such immortals as Ziggie Pig and Silly Seal! But, *just for a moment* — then we remember what an ever-lovin' gas it's been to help create what is indubitably the Marvel Age of Comics, we wipe away our sentimental tears for yesteryear . . . and we start slaving away over the next incredible ish of FANTASTIC FOUR! Excelsior!)

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (REAL FRANTIC ONE)—A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

T.T.B. (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER)—A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER

Q.N.S. (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)—A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.

K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

Dear Stan and Jack,

Stop. Cease this foul play. What do I mean by these strange sounding words? Simply this. If you continue to let the F. F. eat the dust to every villain who comes along, as you have been in the last few issues, you'll doom them to an inferiority complex bigger than anything you've ever seen. In your last issue of F. F. (#76), the Thing, Torch, and Stretch were utterly smashed on two separate occasions which both took place with a single foe. Indestructables' powers made Ben's strength, Johnny's flame, and Stretcho's stretching powers look ridiculous. And the Silver Surfer, who was supposed to have lost his sky-born powers a few issues ago, single-handedly blotted out 3 of the F. F. completely. Ben hasn't made a worthy show of his famous yell, "It's Clobberin Time!", since he fought against the F. F. themselves in issues 41, 42, and 43. The Torch hasn't singed a hair on a super villain since then too, and Richards, well, he hasn't gone kaput in the thinking department, but it has also been since those 3 former F. F. issues since he's made a good show himself in the fighting department. I don't mean to get you guys down or anything, but something's gotta happen fast or the Yancy Street Gang is gonna take over the Baxter Building. Of course I have no complaints about inking or writing of the F. F.!

Randy Rasmussen, Box 23
Towner, N. Dak. 58788

At least we're still doing *something* right, eh, lad? Although, if feeling that the F. F. are getting flattened 'way too often isn't a complaint about the writing of the mag, we're not sure just what *would* be! Tell us true, though — would you really enjoy it if the F. F. constantly came up against foes whom they could polish off within the confines of a single-ish installment — possibly even in their very first encounter? Actually, however, it'd make it a lot easier for your embattled *Bullpen* if things went that way, so maybe we'll try lining up some easier opponents for our combat-ready quartet . . . like maybe Aunt May, or Woody Allen! Who knows . . . maybe they could eventually work their way up to fearless Forbush himself!

Dear Stan and Jack,

We did it! We finally succeeded in spotting an inexcusable, grammatical error. It might be excusable in Brand Echh, but never Mighty Marvel! In FANTASTIC FOUR #76 page 12 panel 3 Psycho-Man is commanding his indestructible creation: "Journey fourth — and find the one I seek!" According to Daniel, FOURTH is next after third; one of four equal parts. We are positive Psycho-Man was not sending him on his fourth mission, but instead, sending him FORTH—forward — out! Tsk tsk! Another mistake like that and you'll have to stand in the corner. We expect our pastel-blue, whiskered, newspaper-wrapped no-prize in three weeks or less!

George and Linda Pelley, 839 Day Hollow Road
Union Station, Endicott, New York 13760

It's yours, friends . . . but we hope you aren't in much of a hurry, because we sent it by fourth-class mail! (Or is it *forth*-class *male*, since we asked Honest Irv to drop it off for us! Oh well . . .)

Dear Stan and Jack,

In both F. F. 75 and 76, Jack has drawn the atoms connected by rods to form molecules. I am sure most Marvelites will ridicule you for this because atoms are not connected by rods; however, I can explain this! In issue 75, page 20, panel 4, Reed says "I thought so. It had to be the answer. When he muttered something about 'Worlds within Worlds', I knew he must have found my latest experiment." I figured out what the experiment is. Reed wanted to discover the solar system which the F. F. had been to when Doc Doom shrunk them (I can't find what ish it is). He discovered a solar system, but wishing to find it easily again in case he lost it he created artificial molecules to surround it. These molecules could be easily recognized. In order to keep them together, he created the rods (relying on gravity to keep the molecules together). This also explains why the atoms are globes and don't show the electrons, neutrons, or protons. Psycho-Man was in that area investigating this occurrence. You're pretty lucky I got you out of that mess.

James Ritchie, Box 878
Killarney Man.

Oh, we dunno, Jamie! After all, we sorta thought that King Kirby drew these mod molecules because he wanted to make an interesting, almost symbolic reconstruction of the approximate arrangement of . . . Hmmmm . . . come to think of it, maybe we are pretty lucky you got us out of that mess, at that!

Dear Marveldom,

Injustice has entered the ranks of our assembled and unassembled might. Injustice in the form of one human-type creature (and that's only a possibility right now) which may very well end the climb of Marvel in the magazine industry. Can we allow our cause to go down the drain after all the blood (?), sweat, and tears we have endured and caused our leaders to endure??? I say thee nay, people. It must not be. Already, the Fantastic Four's staff has contributed this blight, yea, this disruptive creature into the Marvelite's bloodstream of life and literature. Think of it, all of you, monthly dialogues reading as such: "You stay here, Sue, while the guys and I go around beating up this month's bad guy" — Reed Richards. Other such cherished words such as: "Oh, Reed, Human Torch and the Thing — the pressure of upholding the good name of the F. F. will fall on them." Soap, soap, soap, and more soap. We must-uh- reassess our position on the subject of the "Let's have a baby" people versus the "Good ol' F. F." people. Who is to decide? Impartiality is ever the Marvel code. Stan Lee says, "Write and tell us all about it." But how much will rely on the democratic way? For these and other answers, you must ask yourself. I ask all of you loyal Marvelites out there, will this baby change the course of Marvel history? It will, I tell you. Stan Lee is one of the greatest writers there is or ever will be. But he has made a grievous error in introducing this new development. Maybe he and his staff can handle it entirely differently than what I imagine, and if that is the case, I will apologize humbly. However, it is not a chance I would prefer to take. Do not misinterpret this letter, I beg of you. I love babies, but not in the case that it might doom Marvel's first baby, the Fantastic Four. I sincerely hope that the writers and artists, letterers, and inkers, and especially the readers and purchasers, will reconsider this allowance of mine as merely a warning of things that might happen, not things that will happen. And above all, may the cry "Make Mine MARVEL" forever echo through literary history (sob).

Perry Turner, 1240 Corpus Christi Rd.
N.A.S. Alameda, California 94501

And, because we're frankly more than just our usual amount of confused about just what in the name of Aunt Petunia you're saying, we'll just wait for those little ol' echoes before we answer you. Except to say that, if you're wanting us to give you some hints on how we're going to handle the matter of Reed and Sue's dynamic little dividend, we'll have to keep you in the dark until the proper and propitious moment — in other words, until Stan and Jack figure out themselves what they're going to do with the little tyke. 'Nuff said?

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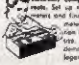
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